

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-11 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoki (JP 57-25556). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 7 are amended and rewritten. Claim 1 now recites:

1. A flexible chain guide for guiding a length of a chain that extends between spaced-apart sprockets and has chain links engageable with teeth on the sprockets, said flexible chain guide comprising:

a U-shaped body, said U-shaped body including a mounting bar having an outer end portion and an inner end portion, and an elongated flexible, resilient spring leaf having a fixed end integral with said inner end portion and an unattached free end; and

a flexible, resilient, generally U-shaped metal reinforcing strip lining said U-shaped body, said reinforcing strip bearing against said spring leaf and against said inner end portion of said mounting bar to reinforce and back up said spring leaf when said spring leaf bears against the length of the chain,

wherein said spring leaf is adapted to extend lengthwise along one side of the length of chain and to bear against and guide the length of chain to damp vibration.

Claim 7 now recites:

7. A chain and sprocket system, comprising:

a rotatable drive sprocket having drive sprocket teeth,

a rotatable driven sprocket spaced from said drive sprocket and having driven sprocket teeth,

an endless chain for transmitting rotation of said drive sprocket to the driven sprocket, said chain extending over said sprockets and having chain links engaging the teeth on said sprockets,

said chain having first and second chain sections extending between said sprockets, one of said chain section constituting a tension

side of said chain and the other of said chain sections constituting a slack side of said chain depending on the direction of rotation of said sprockets, and

a chain guide for the slack side of the chain,

said chain guide including a U-shaped body having a fixed mounting bar having an outer end portion and an inner end portion, and an elongated flexible, resilient spring leaf having one end attached to and integral with said inner end portion of said mounting bar and an unattached free end, and a flexible, resilient, generally U-shaped metal reinforcing strip lining said U-shaped body, said reinforcing strip bearing against said spring leaf and against said inner end portion of said mounting bar to reinforce and back up said spring leaf when said spring leaf bears against a length of the chain,

wherein said spring leaf extends lengthwise along the slack side of the chain and bears against the slack side of the chain to damp vibration.

Amended claims 1 and 7 are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. For example, support for the amendments to claims 1 and 7 can be found in cancelled claims 4-6 and Figure 1.

Yokoki does not anticipate the structures of claims 1 and 7. Yokoki fails to disclose a U-shaped body including a mounting bar having an outer end portion and an inner end portion, and an elongated flexible, resilient spring leaf having a fixed end integral with the inner end portion and an unattached free end. Yokoki also fails to disclose flexible, resilient, generally U-shaped metal reinforcing strip lining the U-shaped body, wherein the reinforcing strip bears against the spring leaf and against the inner end portion of the mounting bar to reinforce and back up the spring leaf when the spring leaf bears against the length of the chain. Because these features are not disclosed by Yokoki, the claimed invention is not anticipated.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ullein (U.S. Pat. No. 6,599,209) in view of White (U.S. Pat. No. 6,155,941). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended and rewritten. The combination of Ullein and White fails to render the structures of these claims obvious. That is, claims 1 and 7 each recite a U-shaped body including a mounting bar having an outer end portion and an inner end portion, and an elongated flexible, resilient spring leaf having a fixed end integral with the inner end portion and an unattached free end. Such a structure is shown, for example, in Figure 3 of the present application.

In contrast to such a structure, Ullein teaches a structure that is integral around its entire perimeter. See, for example, Figures 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of Ullein. The portion of the structure of Ullein that acts as the alleged spring leaf is a notched portion 7. Notched portion 7 nor the section 6 that extends along a length of the chain or belt 1, however, are U-shaped or include a free end and an outer end portion, as claimed. White is also silent with respect to such a structure. Because neither Ullein nor White teach or suggest a U-shaped body, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 7, and each corresponding dependent claim, would not have been obvious.

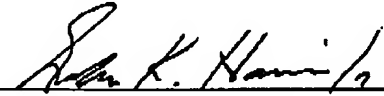
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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